

Danville's Riverwalk

Access

Parking for the 7 mile (and growing) trail is available at several points: The Crossing at the Dan, Dan Daniel Park and Anglers Park. The paved path is designed for use by walkers, bikers, roller-bladers, those with disabilities & others. Connections may be made to woodland trails and facilities at Dan Daniel and Anglers Parks, the Carrington Pavilion, Danville's Science Center, historic Downtown Danville and, most recently, Riverside Dr. restaurants and hotels. The Riverwalk is truly one successful path to the vision adopted by Danville Parks, Recreation & Tourism: *Danville... Happy and Healthy!*

Nature

Typical bottomland trees along the trail include River Birch, with simple double-toothed leaves and bark that peels into thin short curls; Sycamore, reaching up to 100 ft. with buttonball fruit and large strips of peeling bark; and groves of Box Elder, members of the Maple family which host migrating cedar waxwings. Double-Crested Cormorant, mallards, heron, and basking turtles flourish along the river. Numerous types of fish draw anglers of all ages to the Dan River. Striped bass, landlocked in the John H. Kerr Reservoir, migrate upstream to the Dan

to spawn during spring each year. A striped bass tournament is held annually each April at Angler's Park. Catfish, some said to be of legendary size, prowl the river's bottom.

History

The rich history of Danville is evidenced at many sites along the Riverwalk. These include Wynne's Falls ferry crossing, the converted 1856 Southern Railway train bridge, Civil War fortifications, and a fish weir from Native American days. The Riverwalk is adjacent to sites included on the Civil War Trails Tour.

Trail Progress & Plans

The Riverwalk on the Dan may define the City of Danville for the 21st century. Historically, the Dan River was utilized as a catalyst for industry; now the river's value rests in its natural beauty and recreational opportunities. With the ability to lure walkers, bikers and moms with strollers through beautiful parks and natural areas, historic sites, and businesses, this trail along the Dan River links our past to our future.

Created and adopted in 2001, The Dan River Trail System Master Plan envisions the development of 14 miles of trails along Danville's waterways. Plans to link the Riverwalk to the six-mile Richmond-Danville Rail-Trial and beyond are also under consideration. In addition, the Riverwalk connects to scenic wooded natural surface trails in Dan Daniel Memorial Park.



Anglers Ridge Mountain Bike Trail System

The Herculean efforts of the Southern Virginia Mountain Bike Association have produced what some call "Southside's sweetest single track". This intricate 12-mile mountain bike system offers technical challenges on trails like Hot Tamale, Little Pisgah and Broken Arrow. Novice riders can try out skills on the more moderate Anglers Ridge, Riverside Dr. and Eagle Scout trails. For mountain bike opportunities visit www.svmmba.org.

With the ever-increasing popularity of the Riverwalk and adjacent network of trails the forecast for Danville's future is "Happy and Healthy".

Danville Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department Outdoor Recreation Division

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The Riverwalk



Danville, Virginia
Parks, Recreation & Tourism

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